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MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY

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NCAA bound Scam involves MSU



Tanner Hesterberg / The Trail Blazer

Members of the Morehead State volleyball team jump in celebration after scoring the winning point in the OVC Tournament championship match. The Eagles earned their first-ever NCAA Tournament berth. Read more in Sports on page 5.

LANA BELLAMY—
LIFE & ARTS EDITOR

Bogus checks bearing the name of Morehead State University are being used in an Internet money scam in other states.

About 10 years ago, sources from outside the country conned many U.S. citizens out of thousands of dollars through e-mails asking them to deposit fraudulent checks. The offender would send a fraudulent check through the mail, ask the person to deposit it and send money to a specific address while "keeping a little extra for their time." The checks ended up bouncing, outing the individual thousands of dollars.

Now, con artists have put a new spin on the old scam. E-mails have been circulating asking people to participate in Secret Shopper surveys where they buy merchandise in retail stores and receive a check to cover their expenses. The scammers ask shoppers to send money on to the next participant and, again, to keep a little extra for their time.

However, the checks local people received were "unofficial checks" from Morehead State University.

MSU Police Chief, Matt Sparks, said he has been contacted by at least six people claiming to have been targeted by the Se-

cret Shopper scam. One person lost at least \$2,000.

The problem for law enforcement is none of the reported offenses occurred in Kentucky. The six people who have contacted Sparks are from California, Indiana, Ohio, and Colorado.

Sparks said MSU police can act only if offenses happen within their jurisdiction. Even though the university's name is being used, the Morehead State Police Department (MSPD) is limited.

"It makes it harder to investigate," Sparks said. "I have to rely on cooperation from other departments who have their own problems and cases they're working on."

Police departments in other states where the person reporting the incident hasn't lost any money might overlook the scam, Sparks said.

MSPD Police Officer Warren Meadows has been asked by Sparks to look further into the case. Since Meadows and Sparks both worked for the Kentucky State Police (KSP), they remember similar Internet crimes from 10 years ago.

Meadows said his current role is to see if any offenses regarding the scam occurred in MSPD jurisdiction and so far, they have

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Cheerleading requires routine adjustments

ALLI COLLIS—
MANAGING EDITOR

Two minutes and 30 seconds.

This is all the time college cheerleaders have on the competition floor, and the determining factor in a squad's success or failure.

In order to claim national championship titles, extreme year-round dedication is required of all participants. This commitment can be a difficult adjustment for cheerleaders leaving their high school squads and entering the competitive world of collegiate cheerleading.

MSU all-girl cheerleaders Olivia Miller and Melissa Bull, now sophomores, have been put through this test, and came out national champions.

Bull said the first big change she had to make in becoming a cheerleader for MSU was adjusting to

the increased level of difficulty.

"Before I came to Morehead, I competed on a level three all-star team," Bull said. "We were only allowed to do one-trick baskets,

such as a toe-touch, minimal tumbling skills, and limited stunts. Learning how to do such complicated stunts in such little time was definitely a struggle for me."



Alli Collis / The Trail Blazer

Olivia Miller and Melissa Bull adapted to changes encountered when transitioning from high school to collegiate cheerleading.

Miller said the main difference she noticed was the amount of time she spent practicing and fulfilling other requirements. This included the realization that traveling home often would not be an option.

"Cheering in college is a lot like a job," Miller said. "We practice three times a week and work very hard on not only competition, but also on game related stuff."

Bull agreed that practice takes up a lot of time.

In high school, Bull cheered for an all-star team, while Miller cheered for her high school squad. Both girls only practiced a few times a week. However, Miller said these high school practices were typically unproductive due to large amounts of goofing off. Now, as MSU all-girl cheerleaders, Bull and Miller

practice three nights a week, for two hours of non-stop hard work - tumbling, stunting, etc.

Besides the adjustment of reaching the difficulty level college cheerleading requires, Bull and Miller also had to get into the rhythm of being a college student.

"Balancing cheerleading and other activities such as sorority life was kind of hectic my freshman year, but my big [sister] in my sorority was also a cheerleader so she showed me the ropes of how to be organized," Miller said. "Having a planner to write down everything that you have to do for the week really helps."

Bull has also found out ways to balance cheerleading and school.

"I try to keep most of my classes in the morning," Bull said. "This allows for a few hours of

SEE ROUTINE - page 2



SNAPSHOT

LOGAN TODD—
ONLINE EDITOR

Few people really know what motivates and inspires them when they are young. But while other children were dreaming of a life as a daredevil, princess or the President of the United States, Clayton Akers knew what was important to him.

It was always obvious to Akers that sports would be an integral part of his life. While his elementary school peers were waking up early to watch Saturday morning cartoons, Akers was watching Sports Center.

Akers passion for sports began with playing basketball and watching games with his father in the third grade.

"I played little league basketball and just really developed a love for the game," Akers said. "My dad was a Houston Rockets fan and I would watch games with him. Our fa-



Clayton Akers

vorite player was Hakeem Olajuwon."

He did not jump straight into sports writing. Akers said when he started community college he thought about several career paths, such as carpentry, weld-

ing and even real estate. But when he transferred to Morehead State University in Fall 2008, he thought about what his teacher had said and declared his major in journalism.

"I had written a few pieces for a newsletter put out by an honor society that I was in at community college, but other than that I had absolutely no news writing experience," Akers said.

Akers joined the campus newspaper, The Trail Blazer, his first semester at MSU. The first article he wrote was a story on an MSU volleyball game and it was the first time he interviewed head volleyball coach, Jaime Gordon.

"That first article didn't

SEE SNAPSHOT - page 2



Lana Bellamy / The Trail Blazer

The Tree Lighting Ceremony was held on Tuesday night on the ADUC commons. Festivities were held in ADUC prior to the lighting. Susan Andrews read 'Twas the Night Before Christmas to a group of children there to join in the fun.

WHAT'S INSIDE...

SPORTS



The MSU football team finishes the season with a win over Butler

OPINION



Editorial: Protestors did not warrant pepper spray

LIFE & ARTS



MSU baseball player returns to the field after battle with cancer

Check out
The Trail Blazer's
website at

trailblazeronline.net

Vote on our poll each week and have your voice heard This week: How helpful were Black Friday sales with your holiday shopping?

SCAM

— From Page 1

not.

Since the crimes have not happened in Kentucky, Sparks said he thinks it was by chance MSU's name was pulled into the scam, along with the arbitrary signatures on the checks.

Sparks said, "They went on the Web site and got some employee names, but they're not in the budget office or cash office, they're just random."

In the past, businesses that have been pulled into scams suffered major PR damage, Meadows said. While working for the KSP, he encountered an incident where the scammers used a legitimate company to make a fake website for people looking for employment.

Since the offenders didn't mention MSU in the initial emails, Sparks said he does not expect any backlash for the university.

"From the people I've contacted, they don't have any ill feelings toward the

university," Sparks said. "They realize it was a scam and we're as much victims as they are."

Meadows said people should realize if the victims had used common sense and due diligence, they would not have fallen for the rip-off.

From experience as an Intel Analyst for the KSP, Meadows has experience in dealing with Internet crimes.

Currently, he is keeping in touch with the Internet Crime Complaint Center, a partnership of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National Crime Center.

IC3.gov allows people who have been targeted by cons to report the crimes. A taskforce regularly reviews submissions and connects the incidents to begin investigations. So far, there is not an open case on the forgery incident indirectly involving MSU.

But the factor connecting

all the reported incidents has nothing to do with Secret Shopping. Sparks said most of the victims admit to submitting job applications to unsolicited websites.

Sparks said he thinks there is a simple reason people buy in.

"In my opinion, it's the same reason people play the lottery," Sparks said. "There's that chance that they might get money out of the deal."

Sparks and Meadows said they are at a loss in how to deal with crime involving fraudulent MSU checks.

The anonymity and unlimited access the Internet provides makes it easier for people to get away with these crimes, Meadows said.

"So what if they send out 1,000 emails? [Right now] They can't be touched," Meadows said.

Sparks said the offender is likely to be the same

person or group involved in past similar scams. Although he has no evidence to support his claim, he said his intuition guides him in that direction.

"I feel confident, when the dust all settles on it, it will have some out-of-country involvement," Sparks said. "It's too similar to the scams that have been going on for years."

Meadows and Sparks urge people to guard themselves against Internet crimes by not posting personal information to sites that are not secure. If someone is targeted, Meadows said the best thing is to immediately report the crime to IC3.gov or call the police.

Sparks said, "Anytime, if you get something through the mail or online, when it seems too good to be true, check it out, because it probably is."

ROUTINE

— From Page 1

studying or resting before practice, so I am able to give my best to both cheerleading and class."

Coming into any team as a freshman is never easy. Bull said it was hard to go from being a senior leader on her all-star team to being at the bottom of the barrel.

"Everything that you thought you knew about cheerleading was combined with new knowledge that my veterans taught me," she said.

Though becoming an MSU cheerleader was ini-

tially a tough road to travel, Miller and Bull said they both love the position they find themselves in now.

"My favorite part about being an MSU cheerleader would be walking into the practice room and seeing all of the national champion banners, and knowing that it is my job to help put more banners up there," Bull said.

Miller said she liked knowing that she had a second family to support her.

"I spend six-plus hours a week with the girls on my

team, and we are truly just like a family," Miller said. "We may argue, cry, but we also support each other, and at the end of the day we are all working for a large goal, and that is to be the best."

Making it through the adjustments of being a freshman on a college team and sticking it out through the difficult days was worth it for Miller and Bull. The two were a part of the 2011 all-girl Universal Cheerleaders Association's national championship team.

"I don't think words can

describe what it felt like to win a national championship," Bull said. "I cried my eyes out because I knew that all of my work had paid off. My tumbling coach from back home always said, 'It takes 10,000 hours or hard work and determination for five minutes of fame.' I finally achieved that five minutes of fame, but this just means that I have that much more work to try to win another."

SNAPSHOT

— From Page 1

get published. I didn't really know the right way to do it yet," Akers said. "The interview with Jaime Gordon was pretty horrible but he was really nice about it."

Akers' next article, a football game story, became his first published work. That semester he published eight stories, including several on MSU volleyball games.

"I didn't know much about volleyball because I had never really followed it," Akers said. "But I really fell in love with the game covering the MSU team. I like how fast paced it is and how important the communication between players is."

The next semester Akers more than doubled the number of stories he produced and began taking photos for the newspaper. Akers said his writing continued to develop with experience and the help of the new sports editor and personal friend, Cody Evans.

"I took on a much more active role that semester," Akers said.

In Fall 2009 Evans moved to the vacant managing editor position alongside the then current editor Carlo Angerer, and Akers took on the role of sports editor for the Trail Blazer.

"It was an honor but I was scared because I didn't know much about laying

out pages, but Cody and Carlo really helped me catch on."

Akers said when he took the position he wanted to expand the traditional sports coverage area to cover some of the lesser known sports, such as golf, volleyball, tennis and soccer.

"It was one of my favorite articles and it was definitely my favorite interview," Akers said. "It was one of those articles that I wish I could have taken more time with, but I was working on deadline."

Akers' coverage of the volleyball team also included the team's NCAA championship victory in 2010. After the victory Gordon asked his players if

they thought Akers' should get a championship ring as well.

The impact that Akers made on the volleyball program and the players was undeniable, Gordon said.

"The team was unanimously supportive," Gordon said. "It got to the point where they told me, 'Listen coach if you don't give him one, we are going to be really upset.'"

Akers left MSU and the Trail Blazer at the end of Fall 2010 and moved back home to Prestonsburg, Ky.

"I enjoyed every minute of it," Akers said. "I feel like I could have done some things better, but in the end I wouldn't change a thing."

THE TRAIL BLAZER

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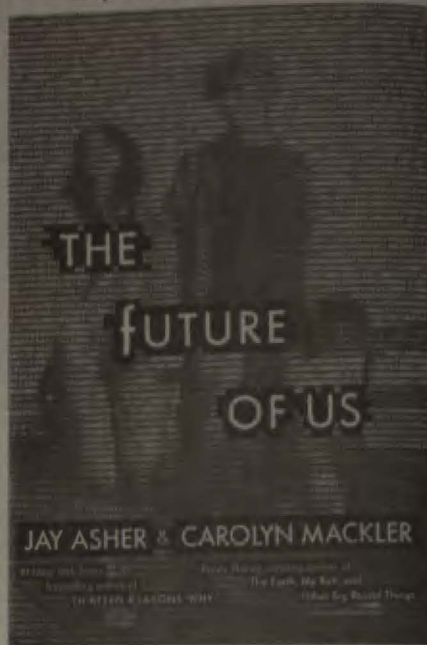
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PLAYGROUND by Fifty Cent. Loosely inspired by 50 Cent's own adolescence, and written with his 14-year-old son in mind, *Playground* is a devastating yet ultimately redemptive story told in voice-driven prose and accented with drawings and photographs.

WHAT HAPPENED TO GOODBYE

by Sarah Dessen. McLean has followed her dad in leaving their unhappy past behind. Each new place gives her a chance to try out a new persona. But now McLean discovers a desire to stay in one place and just be herself.

Sarah Dessen



CROSSED by Ally Condie. The second book in the dystopian *Matched* trilogy! In search of a future that may not exist, Cassia journeys to the Outer Provinces in pursuit of Ky — taken by the Society to his certain death — only to find that he has escaped.



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EDITORIAL

Protestors did not warrant pepper spray

In the past few weeks there have been an increasing number of reports of alleged police brutality against the Occupy Wall Street protestors — but video evidence for these “alleged” attacks seems to be accumulating as fast as the reports are coming out.

On Nov. 19, 2011, an OWS student group at University of California was doused with an excessive amount of pepper spray by a UC Davis police officer. Video evidence of this incident was posted to YouTube shortly after the students were assaulted.

According to the student who filmed the confrontation, the students were having a peaceful protest by sitting on the quad.

The video shows the students surrounded by more than a dozen UC Davis officers dressed in riot gear, although none of the officers show signs they are afraid the protest will become violent. An officer, later named as UC Davis Police Lt. John Pike, gave the protestors three minutes to move, so officers could remove the tents from the area, before he would have to disrupt the protest. The video then shows Davis shaking a can of pepper spray, showing it to the crowd, and nonchalantly soaking the protestors with copious amounts of the chemical.

At least one student had to be taken to the hospital to be treated for chemical burns.

The UC Davis community was stunned at the actions of the police against the protestors.

One professor said in an open letter to the UC Davis chancellor, “You are responsible for it because this is what happens when UC Chancellors order police onto our campuses to disperse peaceful protestors through the use of force: students get hurt.”

Sadly, this is not the only incident of brutality that has been reported against Occupy protestors, and it is not likely to be the last.

While use of force against protestors may sometimes be necessary, as in the case of the Oakland, Calif., Occupy movement, this should not make it common practice with all protestors.

The students at UC Davis were peacefully protesting, and while they may have made the officers’ lives a bit more difficult by refusing to move to allow their tents to be cleared away, that is not an excuse for the officers to use excessive force, and excessive pepper spray, on peacefully protesting students.

Be part of the discussion

The Trail Blazer welcomes reader responses. Letters should be 400 words or less and signed. Addresses and telephone numbers should be included (for verification purposes only). Letters must be received in Room 317 Breckinridge Hall or emailed to editor@trailblazeronline.net by 4 p.m. Friday for the next week’s publication.

The Trail Blazer reserves the right to edit letters for purposes of clarity, brevity and legal considerations.



VIEWPOINTS

TIME cover too diluted



LANA BELLAMY
—
Life & Arts Editor

The cover of the Dec. 5 issue of TIME Magazine, will carry an illustration related to a story on the benefits and drawbacks of anxiety. Only Americans will see this cover. Everyone else around the world will see the striking picture of a man, dirt clad and face-masked, in the midst of the current Egyptian uprising. Does anyone see

a problem?

Clearly, the more important story is the Egyptian uprising, but apparently, TIME Magazine doesn’t think Americans are interested in news outside our borders. This isn’t the first instance of TIME feeding Americans soft news over important world affairs.

The cover of the Nov. 28 issue focused on the year’s 50 best inventions, while the global cover pictured Turkey’s influential prime minister related to a story on his climb to power. Other covers that didn’t run in the U.S. hit on issues of several news topics

from the Dalai Lama to former Egyptian President Mubarak to Libya.

It’s no secret that Americans have a reputation of not caring about “important” global issues, but how can we be blamed when our own publications purposefully keep us out of the loop? It seems TIME is focused more on selling to a particular market than providing U.S. citizens with important global issues.

But it’s not just TIME watering down material for American use. Evidence of this oversimplification for Americans can be

found in everything from television shows like The Office (as opposed to the British version) to literature (such as Harry Potter). Americans are stereotyped as less intelligent almost everywhere.

Feeding us “soft” news hurts more than it helps. If we want to rise above the embarrassing reputation we have with the rest of the world, we need to be given access to the same information. The playing field has to be leveled before Americans can have a chance at redemption.

VIEWPOINTS

Friday shoppers bring shame



ALLI COLLIS
—
Managing Editor

Thanksgiving traditionally is a holiday when people get together with friends and family to celebrate the things they are thankful for. But Black Friday shopping is overshadowing Thanksgiving more and more each year. We should look at the key word in the phrase “Black Friday” — Friday.

In the past, Black Friday was a day when stores

opened a few hours early on the day following Thanksgiving, holding sales on the season’s most popular items. Many people made it a tradition to get up early that Friday, to try and get a head start on their Christmas shopping.

For many, Black Friday is the kick off to the Christmas season. However, in the past few years, and this year especially, Black Friday got way out of hand.

Last Friday many chain stores opened at 10 p.m. Thanksgiving Day with deals on video games,

movies, etc. People who traditionally would have been spending time with their family and friends celebrating Thanksgiving, instead were standing in lines inside and outside of stores, hoping to jump on deals.

Some of these shoppers got extremely out of hand. In a Wal-Mart in Los Angeles a woman used pepper spray on 10 other customers to make sure she got the video game console she wanted.

Black Friday has turned into a sad affair. Shopping on Thanksgiving Day

not only takes consumers away from their families on Thanksgiving, it also takes store employees away from their families and holiday celebrations. The money made should not be so important it requires sales to begin on Thursday. It’s also appalling that some customers would go to the extremes of using pepper spray to make sure they get what they want.

Black Friday should be a fun way to kick off the Christmas season, not a “get-what-I-want-at-all-costs” day.

CAMPUS COMMENT

Do you like to participate in Black Friday sales?



Ashley Carter
Junior History
Louisville, Ky.

“No, I don’t like being pushed or shoved. Online deals are easier and convenient.”



Lisa Hays
Senior University Studies
Nicholasville, Ky.

“Yes, I like to go out and get into the Holiday rush.”



Nikkl Cagle
Junior Sociology and History
Murray, Ky.

“Yes, it’s exciting to beat other people.”



Wendy Rodriguez
Senior Elementary Education
Ashland, Ky.

“Not this year. I was able to get what my child needed.”

THE TRAIL BLAZER

The ultimate save

Player strikes out cancer, returns to baseball diamond

BONNIE DAILEY—
STAFF WRITER

In most of the motivational speeches college students endure during their academic career, students are told to dream big.

Garrick Whittle, pitcher for the Morehead State University baseball team, did just that when he dreamed of getting the position as pitcher for MSU, fighting for that position last fall. However, that same semester Whittle discovered he might have to be fighting for something else — his life.

Wearing a "God Strong" bracelet and a smile on his face, Whittle finds it difficult to talk about his struggles this past year.

"It was really a time of uncertainty, I guess," Whittle says.

Doctors found a tumor in Whittle's back last December, and informed him soon, that he had a soft tissue cancer that not much is known about.

When he found out about his cancer, Whittle had been reading a book called Crazy Love.

Whittle says the book talks about how God has a crazy love for everyone and that no matter what one faces on a daily basis, God will guide that person in the right direction. Whittle says the book was an inspiration to him.

"When I found out, I cried and wanted to do nothing but sit in my room. Then I realized that I was given the cancer for a reason, and I needed to use it in a positive manner," Whittle says.

Whittle says he decided to blog about his experience. His blog entries listed all the questions and yearned-for answers he had throughout the year.

His first blog was titled "Cancer is my Blessing," and in just a month his blog had more than 3,000 views.

"I was shocked about how many people responded to the blog," he says. "What I was using as a way to help me cope was inspiring others to get closer to

God."

Whittle says he remembers getting e-mails from strangers thanking him for sharing his story and

me that every game I am able to play is a blessing from God," Whittle says.

Whittle says he believes his first game was one of the best games he has ever played and by that point he had realized there was more to life than baseball.

Instead of playing because they had to win, Whittle says he played for fun, which he thought turned the game in MSU's favor.

was aggressive, but the lab report showed that it had not spread to any part of his body.

"It was honestly a miracle, nothing else could describe that," Whittle says. "I get chills thinking about it."

Since March, Whittle has been in remission and has gotten back into his normal routine. He says he believes the experience has made him a stronger per-



Photo Submitted

MSU student and baseball player Garrick Whittle was diagnosed with cancer last fall. Whittle was successful in his fight against the disease and is now able to play baseball again. He now prays before the first pitch of every game.

optimism. Although he did not know what to expect over the next few months, Whittle says he knew he could get through it with God on his side.

After his first surgery in the Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Whittle says he experienced no set backs and was able to start his first game as a pitcher.

Whittle won Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) player of the week.

A week later, Whittle had his second surgery. After removing the tumor and the tissue surrounding it, Whittle had to sit out of baseball for five weeks.

"It was frustrating in a way because I saw that I could succeed, but there

son, player and Christian.

He says one thing that helped him through his battle with cancer was MSU.

"The support from the campus was amazing," Whittle says. "People I didn't even know reached out to help me, motivate me and make sure that I lived the normal life of any other college student."

A candle light ceremony was held for Whittle and a fellow student athlete who was diagnosed with cancer last year. Up 'Til Dawn held a kickball tournament and all proceeds went to him and the other student athlete.

"It's been a crazy, emotional year, but I wouldn't change it for anything," Whittle says.

Looking to his future, Whittle says he wants to play professional baseball, but could also see himself as a baseball coach and would love to do either one.

Whittle says, "At the end of the day, I'm going to take the path that God leads me down, wherever that might be, that's where I'll go."

“

When I found out, I cried and wanted to do nothing but sit in my room. Then I realized that I was given the cancer for a reason, and I needed to use it in a positive manner.

”

Garrick Whittle
— MSU Baseball Player

When he stepped onto the mound Whittle dropped to one knee, said a prayer, then threw his first pitch of the game.

"I do it before every game I pitch. It reminds

were so many other things going on in my life," Whittle says.

When he got the results back from his surgery, he could not believe what he saw—the cancer he had



Lana Bellamy/The Trail Blazer

MSU student Sydney McClain painted faces at the Tree Lighting Ceremony that was held Tuesday. Various campus organizations volunteered at the event, providing children in attendance with fun activities, crafts and candy.



Play scheduled for Dec. 1

The play *August: Osage County* will take place at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 1 in the Lucille Caudill Theatre. The play is a portrait of the dysfunctional American family at it's finest and absolute worst. *August: Osage County* is the winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award for the Best Play. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for seniors and non-MSU students, and free to MSU students with an ID.

Volleyball reception to be held

The MSU Alumni Association will be hosting a pre-game reception prior to the MSU volleyball team's NCAA Tournament match against the Purdue Boilermaker in West Lafayette, Ind. The reception will be held from 5-7 p.m. Dec. 2 at O'Bryan's Nine Irish Brothers. For more information, call 800-783-ALUM. The volleyball match will take place Dec. 2 in the Holloway Gymnasium in West Lafayette.

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Champions at last

MSU cruises in OVC title match; secures first-ever NCAA Tourney bid

TANNER HESTERBERG—
SPORTS EDITOR

Aryn Bohannon vaulted high into the air.

Then, with one thunderous swing of her right arm, ended 37 years of frustration.

Bohannon's kill completed MSU's 3-0 sweep (25-15, 25-23, 26-24) of UT Martin in the championship match of the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament on Nov. 19th at Wetherby Gym, handing the Eagles their first-ever NCAA Tournament berth.

"We were so focused on getting that last point," MSU setter Caitlin Clark said. "It's pure excitement. We've been visualizing this the entire season, practicing our celebration."

The Eagles (26-7) had something else to celebrate — finally winning a conference tournament championship match.

MSU snapped a five-game losing streak in OVC title contests.

"It's kind of nice to take the Marv Levy tag off as far as winning and not getting the big one," Eagles coach Jaime Gordon said, referencing the former NFL coach who guided the Buffalo Bills to four straight Super Bowls in the early '90s but lost all of them. "I think my shoulders might be a little bit lighter."

A heavy dose of offense gave MSU the early advantage.

Consecutive kills by Bohannon coupled with a UTM (19-14) attack error gave the Eagles a 3-0 lead in the first set.

MSU scored six of the next nine points to build a 9-3 advantage. The Skyhawks trimmed their deficit to four, 11-7, but got



Zac Vestring/The Trail Blazer

The Eagles hoist the OVC championship trophy Saturday night in Morehead.

no closer as the Eagles cruised to a double-digit win in the first set, 25-15.

Bohannon and Ellie Roberson posted four kills each to lead MSU in the opening frame.

"Our motto early on was 'relentless,'" Eagles middle blocker Emma Keough said. "We wanted to play relentless vol-

leyball. In the second set, we were in there saying 'relentless.'"

That strategy was ineffective at first.

Kelly Hogan and Allie Whimpey posted back-to-back kills to help UTM garner a 2-0 lead. MSU responded with a 4-1 spurt and traded blows with the Skyhawks before eventually going up, 10-6.

But UTM scratched back to force ties of 12-12 and 13-13 in a set that featured eight ties and five lead changes.

One of those lead changes occurred when Bohannon committed a service error, allowing the third-seeded Skyhawks to edge in front, 23-22.

The top-seeded Eagles refused to waiver.

Roberson slammed two kills and UTM's Britany Wilburn made an attack error, permitting MSU to escape the second set with a 25-23 victory.

"We had some really tight sets there," Gordon said. "Martin played really scrappy defense. They put up a tremendous fight."

The third set proved to be a battle, too. MSU surged ahead, 3-0, prior to a 4-0 run by UTM.

The Skyhawks held leads of 9-6, 22-21 and 24-23, but failed to put the Eagles away.

MSU reeled off six straight points midway through the set to keep it close, then pounced for back-to-back-to-back kills at the end to wrap up the championship.

"We set the scoreboard to 24-23 all week and focused on what we were going to do at that moment," Gordon said. "When we're in that situation, we're going to fight it out."

The Eagles outgut the Skyhawks, 50-34, and registered an attack percentage (.180) that was nearly twice as good (.092).

Roberson paced MSU with 14 kills and Bohannon finished with 13.

Emily Keaton led UTM with 10 kills.

"It was one of those things where in the back of our minds we knew we were the better team," said Eagles libero Leslie Schellhaas, who recorded 19 digs. "When they caught up, it was on our mistakes and our mental errors. Once we took a deep breath and said 'we're fine,' we were able to recover."

Bonus Ball

With the win in the OVC championship match, the Eagles also won the right to play at Louisville on Saturday in an extra regular season game.

The Cardinals beat MSU in straight sets (12-25, 20-25, 18-25).

"We stepped out there and were not mentally prepared," said Bohannon, who knocked down a team-high nine kills. "It was a good learning experience for us. We're going to take some positive things away from it. I think it's only going to help us in the long run."

The OVC has a perennial agreement with U of L that allows the conference champion to play the Cardinals in a tune-up for the NCAA Tournament.

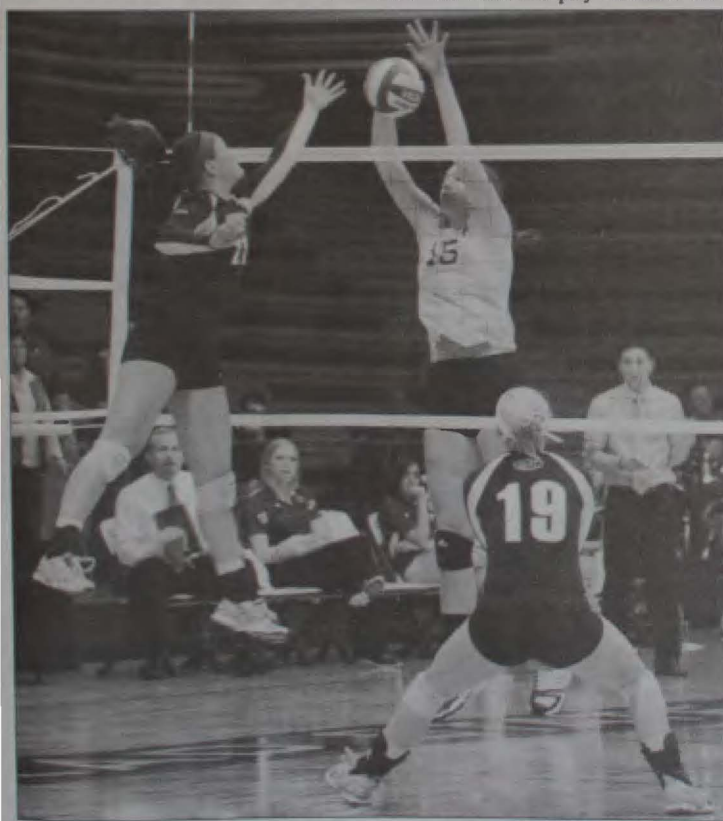
Date to the Dance

The Eagles will battle fifth-seeded Purdue (27-4) in the first round of the NCAA's on Friday at 7:30 p.m. in West Lafayette, Ind.

MSU found out via Sunday night's national selection show on ESPNU that it was placed in the Minneapolis Region.

"Purdue is a very physical team," Gor-

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Zac Vestring/The Trail Blazer

MSU's Annie Gruenschlaeger (15) goes up for the block after TTU's Kelly Hogan (21) tipped the ball over the net during the OVC championship match.



Zac Vestring/The Trail Blazer

After falling in the last two OVC championship matches, Coach Jaime Gordon finally led MSU to the title.

Eagles blast Butler in finale

TANNER HESTERBERG—
SPORTS EDITOR

Morehead State saved its best for last.

Desmond Cox rushed for a career-high 218 yards and two touchdowns to lift the Eagles over Butler University, 55-35, in the season finale on Nov. 19 at Jayne Stadium.

MSU (3-8, 2-6 Pioneer Football League) led from start to finish, snapping a five-game losing streak.

"Personally, this day was great," said Cox, who also caught five passes for 58 yards. "I was thinking about this day all week. You want to go out better than when you came in."

Cox entered the game needing 262 yards to total one thousand yards for the season. Even though he failed

to reach that mark, Cox managed to provide an early spark for the MSU offense.

On the Eagles' first play from scrimmage, the senior fullback broke off a school-record 92-yard touchdown scamper.

"Butler does a lot of things defensively that are susceptible to cutback lanes," Cox said. "I saw green grass in front of me and just used my speed to get out in front."

MSU did not stay in front for long.

The Bulldogs (5-6, 3-5 PFL) responded on their next drive with a 31-yard scoring toss from Andrew Huck to Brendan Shannon to tie the game, 7-7.

But the Eagles stormed back via Donte Sawyer's 30-yard catch to take a 14-7 lead they never surrendered. Sawyer finished with seven recep-

tions for 134 yards and two touchdowns. The junior also established new MSU marks for single-season (12) and career (16) scores.

"It was great to see Donte get in the record book," Eagles coach Matt Ballard said. "He was playing possessed."

MSU played with inspiration after senior linebacker Tony Bachmann went down early in the first quarter with a torn ACL. The much-maligned Eagle defense made several key stops throughout the contest and snatched three interceptions.

Zack Lewis completed 31 of his 46 passes for 387 yards and three touchdowns while connecting with 11 different MSU receivers.

The Eagles amassed 669 offensive



Zac Vestring/The Trail Blazer

Desmond Cox tries to evade the tackle of Butler's Sean Grady during MSU's 55-35 victory over the Bulldogs on Nov. 19 at Jayne Stadium.

SEE FOOTBALL - page 6

MSU wins 2 of 3 in Pennsylvania tourney

ZAC VESTRING—
STAFF WRITER

The Morehead State men's basketball team left Pennsylvania better than when it entered.

After losing three of their first four games this season, the Eagles came away from the Quaker State with two wins and one loss in the TicketCity Legends Classic.

MSU (3-4) defeated West Alabama 61-52 on Friday before defeating Princeton, 68-56, on Saturday. The Eagles' only loss of the weekend came against Bucknell on Sunday, 54-50.

In Friday's win against the Division II Tigers (1-5), MSU produced large scoring runs in each half to gain the win.

"We played hard from the beginning of the game," Eagles coach Donnie Tyndall said. "We did a nice job defending, but we're still not rebounding to the level we are capable of."

Terrence Hill led MSU with 17 points to go along with Drew Kelly's 14 and Ty

Proffitt's 11.

The Eagles raced out to an early 20-4 lead in the first half thanks to five three-pointers. Kelly and Proffitt each contributed two during the run.

The Tigers responded with a 16-7 run to cut their deficit to five, 31-26.

WAU was unable to catch up to the Eagles, as MSU created 15 points off 11 Tiger turnovers in the second half.

WAU's Ryan Fitch led all scorers with 20.

Saturday's combination of stellar full-court defense and successful offensive production propelled the Eagles past Princeton (2-5).

"That was a quality win because Princeton's got a really good team and is well coached," Tyndall said. "That is a team that's going to go on to win eighteen to twenty games."

MSU knocked down 50 percent of its field goals, completing 20 of 40 from the floor, including six three-pointers.

Hill once again led the team with 16

VOLLEYBALL

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don said. "They're one of the best teams, not only in the Big 10, but in the country. So we're going to have our work cut out for us, but I know this team is going to welcome the challenge."



Zac Vestring/The Trail Blazer

OVC Commissioner Beth Debauche, left, presents the tournament MVP award to MSU senior Emma Keough.

points, knocking down all three attempts from behind the arc. Lamont Austin put up 11 points and Milton Chavis chipped in 12 off the bench.

The first half featured four ties and three lead changes. MSU held the halftime advantage, 20-18 after a Hill three-pointer to beat the horn.

Morehead's full court press was too much for Princeton in the second half, as MSU tallied 16 points off 10 Tiger turnovers.

"We were able to play ten guys in the rotation and guys were fresh," Tyndall said. "We wanted them to have to work in the full court to get the ball across half court into their offense."

The game ended on an 11-6 run by the Eagles.

Princeton was held to a 31.6 percent shooting percentage, but outrebounded the Eagles, 31-30.

Sunday's loss happened after Bucknell (5-2) closed the game on a 14-7 run.

Bisons junior guard Cameron Ayers out-produced all scorers with 20 points, including six three-pointers.

Proffitt led the team with 14 points and was the only Eagle to score double-digit points in the game.

After the Bison took an early 5-0 lead, MSU regained it after back to back three-pointers from Proffitt and Hill.

The Eagles led throughout the rest of the first half, but a Bucknell three-pointer cut the deficit to six at 29-23.

After shooting 45.5 percent from the field in the first half, MSU's offense fell apart in the second half, posting a meager 28.6 shooting percentage.

With 6:29 left on the clock, a three-pointer from BU's Bryan Johnson sparked the 14-7 spurt that doomed the Eagles.

Ayers put a dagger into the Eagles by sinking one of his six three-pointers to give Bucknell the lead for good with just 1:46 left on the clock.

"Anytime you play quality competition you learn from it and from tough environments you grow," Tyndall said.

MSU plays at Kent State (3-1) tonight at 7.

The Eagles and Boilermakers had three common opponents in 2011.

MSU lost to twice to Michigan, which was defeated twice by Purdue. Both teams topped Jacksonville State and the Boilermakers beat Louisville.

Should the Eagles pull the upset, they may have a rematch with U of L in the second round. The Cardinals (23-8) have a first round date with Ball State.

Keough named MVP

Keough was tabbed Most Valuable Player of the OVC tournament after averaging 10 kills and a .500 attacking percentage in the semifinals and finals.

"It was a surprise," Keough said of the award. "I just wanted to win it all. I don't really care too much about the individual awards. It feels awesome, but I'm just pumped we won."

Joining Keough on the All-Tournament team from MSU were Clark and Schellhaas.

Give 'em Schellhaas

Schellhaas set a new MSU record for digs in a single season.

The sophomore from Edgewood, Ky, totaled 19 digs in the championship match and 14 against Louisville, upping her yearly total to 628.

Schellhaas said she is more excited about reaching the NCAA Tournament.

"Once we stepped out of here on July 5th, Coach (Gordon) asked what our goal was for the season and 'NCAA's' was the first thing that came out of our mouths. We wouldn't have gotten here without each person on this team and each person on this staff. So it feels really nice."

Fan-demonium

Gordon said the Eagles got an emotional lift from the one thousand fans in Wetherby Gym.

"It was special to do it in front of our fans," Gordon said. "We had an amazing, amazing house tonight. I think the crowd was probably the difference in that second and third set."

The official attendance was 1,056.

FOOTBALL

— from page 5

yards — their most against a Division I opponent this season.

"Offense gets all the headlines and attention," Ballard said. "But game-in, game-out, the difference is what you do defensively."

Special teams played a big role, too.

Rainer Duzan closed out the first half with a 49-yard field goal into a howling wind, giving MSU a 27-16 advantage.

"That might be one of the most impressive kicks I've seen in my life," Ballard said. "That's against the wind. That thing just jumped off his foot."

The Eagles jumped on BU early in the second half.

Lewis hit Sawyer on a screen pass and the receiver broke several tackles en route to a 61-yard score.

Lewis notched another touchdown pass midway through the third quarter on a 28-yard hookup with Cory Jackson.

A 27-yard ramble by Brandon Bornhauser out of the Wildcat formation and a four-yard dash by Cox with five minutes remaining in the game rounded out MSU's scoring.

"When you're able to run the football like that, it helps your play-action and it helps your screen game," Ballard said. "It makes everything more effective."

BU's offense was also effective.

The Bulldogs racked up 522 yards and punted just four times, but could not keep pace with an Eagle squad that was motivated on Senior Day.

"It's the biggest win of my career," said senior defensive end Jerome Raymond, who contributed two sacks as MSU's career sacks leader. "This right here is something I'll remember for the rest of my life."

The Eagles improved to 12-3 all-time against BU, including 8-1 at home.

MSU loses nine seniors.

Defensively, linebackers Bachmann and Keaton May and defensive ends Raymond, Mark Hall and Kyle Manley are gone. Finished on offense are receiver Andre Williams and a trio of running backs — Ronnie McDermott, Jackson and the flamboyant Cox.

"Going out like this is a great experience, especially to do it in front of my friends and family and in front of these wonderful fans in Morehead," Cox said. "I'm going to remember this place for the rest of my life."



Zac Vestring/The Trail Blazer

Terrence Hill (11) led MSU in scoring against West Alabama with 17 points.

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Rainer Duzan kicks a 49-yard field goal just before halftime vs Butler.

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